

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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S E C R E T USUN 4107

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, ME, UN
SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST

1. SYG WALDHEIM ADVISED ME VERY CONFIDENTIALLY TODAY DURING CHAT THAT FOR PAST TWO DAYS EL ZAYYAT BEEN PRESSING HIM HARD TO CLOSE DOWN UN RADIO TRANSMITTER IN CAIRO WHICH SERVES AS COMMUNICATIONS LINK FOR UN OBSERVATION POSTS IN ME. WALDHEIM SAID HE HAS FLATLY REFUSED AND HAS WARNED EL ZAYYAT HE WILL MAKE MATTER PUBLIC IF HE CONTINUES TO PRESS. SYG SPECULATES THAT EGYPTIANS PERHAPS WORRIED RE NORMAL MESSAGE REPORTS VIA THIS TRANSMITTER TO UN HEADQUARTERS IN JERUSALEM, PERHAPS SUSPECTING CODED TRAFFIC WHICH MIGHT HELP ISRAELIS. I URGED HIM HOLD FIRM AGAINST EL ZAYYAT REQUEST ON GROUNDS THIS IMPORTANT MATTER OF PRINCIPLE TO UN AND USG. WALDHEIM HAS PROMISED HE WILL DO SO.
2. WALDHEIM ALSO REPORTS EGYPTIANS "BEHAVING VERY MISERABLY" TOWARD UN OBSERVATION TEAMS ON SCENE. HE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED BECAUSE EGYPTIANS HAVE REFUSED GIVE ANY INFORMATION WHATEVER ON FATE OF TWO UN OBSERVERS WHO HE BELIEVES HAVE BEEN KILLED. HE REPORTS THAT ON SOME OCCASIONS EGYPTIAN TROOPS HAVE FIRED DIRECTLY AT UN OBSERVATION POSTS EVEN THOUGH THEY CLEARLY MARKED AND RECOGNIZABLE, BUT HE HAS NOT DISCLOSED THIS PUBLICLY.
3. IN LOOKING AHEAD WALDHEIM CLEARLY HOPING SIZABLE
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UN PEACE FORCE CAN PLAY ROLE IN INSURING CEASEFIRE AND PERHAPS BE POSITIONED LONGER IF NEEDED. HE NOTED NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS HAVE AGREED MAKE AVAILABLE 4500-MAN CONTINGENT IF NEEDED AND SPECULATES PERHAPS EVEN BIGGER

FORCE COULD BE RAISED. I GAVE HIM NO ENCOURAGEMENT RE THIS AND NOTED YOUR PEACEKEEPING INITIATIVE IN ADDRESS TO UN DID NOT RELATE TO PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

I ADVISED HIM THERE APPEARED TO BE SUFFICIENT TIME TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY ANY UN PEACEKEEPING ROLE AND THAT AT APPROPRIATE STAGE WE MIGHT HAVE SOME VIEWS.

4. MEANWHILE IN KEEPING WITH MY URGING HE HAS PROMISED TO DISCUSS ME DEVELOPMENTS ONLY WITH TWO ADVISERS, BRITISH URQUHART AND SWISS-ARGENTINE GUYER, USYG FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, LEAVING OUT SOVIET USYG SHEVCHENKO. I HAVE CAUTIONED HIM STERNLY RE ANY PUBLIC COMMENTS AND UNEXPECTED MOVES WITHIN UN WHICH COULD COMPLICATE YOUR ONGOING PEACEMAKING EFFORTS.

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